

September 28, 1948

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

ARKANSAS SITE CHOSEN FOR WESTERN ASSEMBLY

HARRISON, Ark.--(BP)--A plot of 1,087 acres high in the Arkansas Ozarks has been tentatively approved as the site of a "western" assembly for Southern Baptists.

Offer of the expansive, wooded area was made by the city of Harrison, and Rev. E. E. Griever, Baptist pastor here, has been notified that it is the choice of a special Western Assembly committee appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention. The committee's recommendation will be presented to the Executive Committee in session at Nashville, Tenn., in December for final action.

The new assembly will compare with the 40-year-old encampment at Ridgecrest, N. C. Overflow of the North Carolina accommodations and the gradual spread of the denomination's territory to the Pacific Coast has made a second site necessary.

Dr. Perry Webb, pastor of the First Baptist Church of San Antonio, Texas, is chairman of the special assembly committee. It was he who notified Mr. Griever of the committee's decision. Sites in Missouri, Texas, and New Mexico also were being considered.

The selected grounds are located on the Missouri Pacific railway, and Governor-elect Sid McMath has promised to pave highways leading to it. There is enough rock and timber on the grounds for building of all necessary accommodations, with an initial layout of \$50,000 for installation of utilities contemplated as only cost to the denomination. A spring of water on the grounds is considered sufficient to support a city of 25,000.

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TEXAS BAPTISTS HAVE 116 ASSOCIATIONS

HOUSTON, Texas--(BP)--Organization on October 21 of San Felipe Association will boost to 116 the number of Baptist associations in Texas.

Thirteen churches are committed to the new organization. Their meeting is slated to be held at Katy, with the Katy church furnishing a turkey dinner.

This is the third association in three years to come almost wholly out of Union Association, which includes Houston and Galveston and is the oldest Baptist cooperative body in Texas. It is still in the running for the title of the largest of almost 1,000 associations in the Southern Baptist Convention.

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DR. RANKIN OUTLINES POSSIBLE
OVERSEAS MISSION ENLARGEMENT

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--Dr. M. Theron Rankin, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said a \$10,000,000 general Cooperative Program in 1950 will make possible a great advance in the denomination's overseas mission program.

Dr. Rankin had reference to a meeting of executives of Southern Baptist agencies in Nashville recently, which group made proposals for a \$10,000,000 Cooperative Program, beginning in 1950. Their recommendation will be considered by the Convention's Executive Committee in December and the annual meeting of the Convention in Oklahoma City next May.

Assuming that Foreign Missions will receive at least 50 per cent of the larger Cooperative Program receipts -- in accordance with the denominational emphasis of 50-50 division -- Baptist Press asked Dr. Rankin what expansion would be possible in overseas missions if his Board receives \$5,000,000 from the Cooperative Program in 1950, in addition to the annual Lottie Moon offering and other designated gifts.

Dr. Rankin responded:

"If the Foreign Mission Board should receive \$5,000,000 from the Cooperative Program receipts in 1950, immediate enlargement of our overseas program of world evangelism would be possible. We will be able:

"1. To meet the urgent request from Japan for 100 missionaries within the next two years.

"2. To provide for the early appointment of an additional 200 missionaries for other countries where the Board has missionary work.

"3. To give enlarged help to more than twenty theological training institutions overseas.

"4. To furnish greatly needed help for the rehabilitation of Baptist programs throughout Europe.

"5. To underwrite plans for a new missionary undertaking among Moslems.

"6. To meet some of the long deferred requests for help in enlarged evangelistic, medical, and literature programs in all areas of the Board's work."